

Amended Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for descaling hot rolled stock, being moved with respect to the apparatus, by spraying it with high pressure water, comprising at least one row of nozzle heads sweeping across the width of the rolled stock with a plurality of nozzle heads (20), each nozzle head being motor-driven in rotation about an axis of rotation (A) substantially perpendicular to the surface (27) of the rolled stock and comprising at least two nozzles (1 to 8) which are disposed eccentrically with respect to the axis of rotation (A), the nozzles (1 to 8) of each nozzle head (20) being arranged as closely as structurally possible to the circumference (25) of the nozzle head, whereby a spray pattern is created on the surface (27) of the rolled stock in a way to touch or overlap the spray pattern of the adjacent nozzle head (20) in the row of nozzle heads, and the nozzles (1 to 8) being arranged in the nozzle head (20) radially inclined outwardly at an angle of inclination (α) in the range of $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 12^\circ \pm 2^\circ$, and inclined in circumferential direction (f,f') of the rotation of the nozzle head (20).
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the angle of inclination (β) of the nozzles in circumferential direction ~~lies in an angular range of $0^\circ < \beta \leq 30^\circ$, especially in the angular range of $\beta \approx 15^\circ \pm 2^\circ$~~ (α) of radial inclination is in the range of $\alpha \approx 12^\circ \pm 2^\circ$.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~according to one of~~ as claimed in claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the adjacent nozzle heads (20, 20) in the row of nozzle heads are ~~driven in counter-rotating sense~~ angle of inclination (β) of the nozzles in circumferential direction lies in an angular range of $0^\circ < \beta \leq 30^\circ$.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in any one of~~ according to claims 1 to 3, characterized in that ~~the jet opening angle (ϵ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles (1~~

~~to 8) is no greater than 15°, especially no greater than 10°~~ adjacent nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are driven in counter-rotating sense.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that ~~at least six nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head~~ the jet opening angle (ϵ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than 15°.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 1, characterized in that ~~eight~~ at least six nozzles ~~(1 to 8)~~ are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head ~~(20)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ characterized in that ~~pairs or groups of nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are adapted to be switched off or on in correspondence with different widths of rolled stock~~ eight nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head.

8. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that pairs or groups of nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are adapted to be switched off or on in correspondence with different widths of rolled stock.

9. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the angle of inclination (β) of the nozzles in the circumferential direction lies in an angular range of $\beta \approx 15^\circ \pm 2^\circ$.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the jet opening angle (ε) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than 10° .

Respectfully submitted,



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